

GENERAL INTELLIGENCER.

HEAR YE!

versed in the Sacred Scriptures, hands defined passages as descriptive of the nation of the people of this great country, obligations incumbent on them towards themselves for such signal manifestations of Divine goodness. All considerate minds, we think, that the admonitions addressed by the great Jewish law-giver to his wayward people are strikingly applicable to our own, and may be appropriately offered on a day which should be devoted to the consideration of good resolutions.

Therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily. Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that flows with milk and honey.

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

And it shall be, when the Lord thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildest upon the foundations of the old.

And thou shalt dwell in them, and thou shalt say, Blessed be the name of the Lord, who hath done for me these things.

And thou shalt say, The Lord hath done for me, and I will not be afraid. And thou shalt say, The Lord hath done for me, and I will not be afraid.

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A LETTER FROM MISSISSIPPI.

We are permitted by a Representative in Congress from one of the Southwestern States to publish, for the information of our readers, the following Letter from a resident of the State of Mississippi, who is vouchsafed to us to be "a citizen of high character and a good judge of public opinion."

DEAR SIR: I have seen and read your President's Message with great pleasure. It is a noble document, replete with patriotism, sound sense, and manly statesmanship. It is conceived and expressed with a clearness and frankness that does honor to the head and heart of the author. It will go far to allay the excitement at the South which has threatened to sever the Union, and, if followed by a corresponding spirit in Congress, must and will restore peace and quiet to the country.

I thought, when I removed from your State, that I would not again take part in the political struggles of my countrymen; but the signs of the times have been such for some months past that I could not resist the calls upon me. I have consequently taken part in the movements here for the preservation of the Union. It affords me pleasure to assure you that the ultra sentiments of our Governor, in his late Message, find no approving response from the people of this State. They would vote him down to-morrow, if they had a chance at him, three or four to one. We had quite an animated debate lately during the session of the Federal Court at Pontotoc. Judge Gholson took ultra ground, insisting upon important amendments to the Federal Constitution as the only condition to a continuance of the Union. Such is the position of Governor QUITMAN, and a few other leaders. A scheme is beyond all question now on foot to bring about a dissolution of the Union. But few of the projectors care bodily to go to work. South Carolina boldly avows her object, and some of her coadjutors in Mississippi, and some of the other States, openly avow a similar purpose. But the great mass of operators in this war upon the Union stand a little in the back ground, slightly shaded. They deny the charge of disunion with great apparent indignation, but at the same time they indulge in all sorts of abuse of the Union. They charge the Government with robbing the South. Its whole machinery is charged with being in the hands of our enemies, and directed with a fixed purpose to degrade and dishonor the South. Such charges are too plain to be misunderstood. If I had half as bad an opinion of the Government as these professed friends of the Union, I should have been for disunion long ago. That there are men at the North, and perhaps a great many of them, who would rejoice for a while at a dissolution of the Union, and are laboring to bring it about, is perhaps true; but that is no reason why we should do the same thing. The fact that fanatics and traitors are found at the North furnishes no excuse for fanaticism and treason at the South. On the contrary, it calls loudly for opposite feeling and purposes. Instead, therefore, of applying the torch to the noble pile at the South because traitors do the same at the North, we should rather rally to the aid of the Government, and unite our efforts with patriots North and South, to beat back and overcome the invaders of our political sanctuary. That is the way the Union men in this State think and talk; and when such sentiments are uttered to the farmers and boys from the hills it would do your heart good to hear them cheer and shout.

Old party walls are down, and old party names are fast becoming obsolete. The Union and Disunion parties are rapidly taking the place of all other distinctions. And nothing in the world can prevent the triumph of the former in our elections next summer but some false move on the part of Congress. I repeat, if the President's Message is met by a corresponding tone of feeling and action in Congress, all will be well. Should that not be the case, God only can see the issue. Those of us who adhere to the Union have done so upon the express condition that the Fugitive Slave Law remains upon the statute book, and be executed. Whenever it is repealed, or the Government fails to enforce it, the whole Union party South stand pledged to apply the remedy, and what it may. They would trample the Union under their feet.

CENSUS OF VERMONT.—Official census returns from all the towns in the State, with the exception of eight in Rutland county, show the present population to be 903,190—a gain in ten years of 20,668. This will be increased by the eight towns to be heard from to about 21,000. Increase in the last ten years, about 7-10 per cent.

POPULATION OF MISSOURI.—The census has been completed in fifty counties of Missouri. These fifty counties contain a population of 360,811, and the Marshal estimates that the same ratio of increase will make the total population 672,000. In 1840 the total population of the State was 383,702; so that, if the estimate be correct, the increase has been 288,000 in ten years.

The Census Returns exhibit some curious facts in regard to population. For instance, in Pike county, Kentucky, there is a family, the husband's age 25, the wife's 21, in which there are five children, the eldest 10 years, the youngest one month old. The Assistant Marshal challenges the world to beat it. The 7th Ward of Boston equals it if it does not beat the above, viz: the husband is 35, the wife 25; five children—the eldest 14, the youngest 4 years. But there is a family in Muskingum county, Ohio, containing fourteen children—the husband is 72 years old, the wife 42, the ages of the children being 21, 20, 19, 16, 14, 12, 10, 9, 8, 6, two boys, twins, 4 years, and two daughters, twins, 7 months old, which we think bears off the palm.

THE UNION.—There has been no lack of appeals to the Southern people within the last twelve months to desert the Union of our fathers and destroy the Constitution. Disunion and peaceable secession have been advocated by many in different States. But when the storm was most terrible the people of Tennessee have shown a union of feeling and sentiment in favor of this glorious Union of States worthy of the truest patriots. This feeling prevails throughout old Franklin, and we can assure our friends elsewhere that the people here are sound upon the Union question. There is not in Franklin county, in our opinion, (and we think we understand public sentiment here,) twenty-five peaceable secessionists. Our people are FOR THE UNION, and are willing to acquiesce in the compromise; and, being thus disposed, they have more sense than to render themselves ridiculous by always grumbling and growling about one or two measures which they possibly do not like, and then, after exhausting their wrath, say, "I will acquiesce." No, they were for the compromise all the time; they are for the Union now, and when that is destroyed they will go with it.

It must be acknowledged that recent developments exhibit a very happy state of sentiment among the masses of the North, as well as in the halls of Congress, and give us great reason to hope that we are now to have a long and peaceful era, in which each section will treat with respect and forbearance the rights and interests of the other.

For ourselves, we believe the South should plant itself firmly upon the Constitution and the Compromises of the last session of Congress. We have no idea that any body of men which may meet in a National Convention will be able "to form a more perfect Union" than that which we now possess. On the contrary, while we properly appreciate the national sentiments expressed by Gov. Floyd, we are afraid that the South will not be settled by the arrangement he proposes. We do not in the least question his loyalty to the South, but no Convention can be raised in this day which will bring forth better fruits than that which framed the American Constitution.—*Richmond Republican.*

A SCRAP OF HISTORY.

THE OLD DEMOCRATIC DOCTRINE, FROM HIGH DEMOCRATIC AUTHORITY.

FROM THE RICHMOND ENQUIRER OF DECEMBER 10, 1850.

"On Thursday last the Electors of Virginia dined together at the Swan Tavern, in this city. The Madison Corresponding Committee and the Governor of Virginia were their guests. These gentlemen, coming from different parts of the State, and bringing with them the sentiments of the People, many of them distinguished Whigs of the Revolution, assembled in harmony and unity to interchange the emotions of friendship at this interesting crisis of our public affairs. Every thing was conducted in the most orderly and dignified manner. It was all the Feast of Reason and the flow of Soul."

"SPENCER ROANE, Esq., one of the Judges of the Court of Appeals, and Chairman of the Electoral College, presided. ROBERT TAYLOR, Esq., of Orange, Speaker of the Senate, acted as Vice President. After an elegant and plentiful dinner, the cloth was removed and the following toasts and volunteers were drunk."

Omitting the preceding Toasts, the following was the 14th regular toast on this occasion:

THE UNION OF STATES: THE MAJORITY MUST GOVERN: IT IS TREASON TO SECEDE.

THE LATE GEORGIA CONVENTION.

FROM THE COLUMBIAN (CHAS.) ENQUIRER OF DECEMBER 24.

Pleased as we were with the proceedings and action of the late Convention, we are compelled to remark that there were two little resolutions which, in our opinion, gave the finishing touch to the whole matter. The Preamble and Resolutions were, to be sure, just what they should have been, and still they were what no disunionist desired them to be—moderate, firm, conservative, and in the proper tone and spirit. We heard occasionally of mutterings and grumblings in a kind of smothered voice, which seemed afraid to be heard, uttering complaints and speaking of submission; but no man, so far as our information goes, ventured to openly denounce what was done. The business of the Convention was done, and well done. The people approve, and who shall condemn it?

But we were within an ace of forgetting what we started to notice. One of our Delegates, Col. McDONALD, introduced a resolution, which was adopted, that the members subscribe out of their private funds an amount sufficient to procure a block of marble to be placed in Washington's monument. This was right and proper. A block had already been sent on, which would probably have been rejected, on account of the inscription placed upon it by order of the Governor. The members of the Convention then did what high-minded and honorable men should have done in this silently rebuking his Excellency for mingling his low, partisan, sectional feelings, in a matter at once national in its character, and connected with the memory of a man who knew nothing but his whole country, its honor, its interest, and its glory.

The other resolution alluded to was introduced by the Hon. ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS, requesting the next Legislature to turn over the balance of the thirty thousand dollars, appropriated for the use of the Convention and not used, to the poor school fund of the State. Our own opinion is that the Legislature can dispose of the public money fully as well in educating the indigent children of the State as by appropriating it to pay the expenses of Conventions which are intended for revolutionary machines to dissolve the Union. It is true, the Convention which has just adjourned was not composed of such materials as was expected by its projectors, and hence it has saved the money, the rights, the reputation, and the interests of the people. May the next one that assembles, if another does, be like unto the last, save and except about two short dozen incarnate and ingrained fire-eaters. From the latter may the good sense of the people deliver us now, HEREON, and FOREVER.

Mr. ALLEN A. HALL, formerly editor of the *Republic*, has been appointed to superintend the construction of the new custom house at San Francisco. He will start for that point immediately, with a view of removing some embarrassments in the title of land claimed by the Government, and of obtaining the necessary information for the proposed structure. None of the plans submitted have been adopted, and none will be accepted until Mr. HALL reports to the Secretary of the Treasury.—*Correspondence N. Y. Courier.*

NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN.—Mr. Kennet Lotus, an English gentleman, whose name has been recently connected with the subject of Chaldean antiquarian researches, and who is now in the East, assisting in running the boundary line between Turkey and Persia, writes to a member of the New Castle-upon-Tyne Farmers' Club, describing a discovery he has made that the ancient Chaldeans had a system of under-draining their lands perfectly similar to the improved system now in vogue in England, their draining tiles, which he has found and traced, being of precisely the same form and materials as those used by the British farmers.

Mr. THOMAS H. YEATMAN, one of the most extensive and successful cultivators of the grape in this country, has sent to New York, for transmission to the World's Fair, some rich specimens of American Wine, of his own manufacture, which have attained a Western celebrity under the name of "Sparkling Ohio Champagne" and "Yeatman's Catawba Wine."

MINERAL RICHES OF ARKANSAS.—Mr. SWELL, an accomplished chemist and mineralogist, who has lately been exploring the mineral treasures of Arkansas, says he found in the interior and mountainous regions of the State abundant indications of mineral and metallic wealth. He collected a large number of specimens of silver, iron, lead, copper, and zinc, and he reports having seen indications that some of these metals exist in great quantities, and that veins may be worked with much advantage. He also discovered signs of extensive coal beds, the strata in some places being quite thick, and the quality of the coal is said to be similar to that of Pittsburgh, and equal to it in combustibility and calorific power.

FUGITIVE SLAVE CASE IN MASSACHUSETTS.—A man from Schenectady (N. Y.) came into Springfield and claimed a black woman who resided here, married, and with a family, as a slave. She was taken before Geo. Bliss, Esq., where the claim was established according to the law in such cases. The woman was given up as the claimant's property; when several of our benevolent citizens, including DARTMOUTH CLARK, Esq., one of our most estimable men, obtained terms, cladded together, and purchased her for her master. Mr. Lombard holds the bill of sale in his possession. The tears of sorrow exhibited by the afflicted woman and her husband, from whom she was about to be separated, were thus changed to tears of joy, and a more happy pair probably never were seen. This is the operation of the fugitive slave law in Springfield. There was no excitement or disturbance. The law was allowed to take its course.

TWO MEN ATTACKED BY AN EAGLE.—The *Planters' Advocate*, published at Macon, N. Y., contains an account, says that on Sunday, the 8th ultimo, Mr. Jonathan Henkle and Mr. Adams, of that county, were reclining upon the side of a hill, basking in the genial rays of the sun, when suddenly a large eagle made a swoop and fastened its talons in the hair of Mr. Henkle. He started up, and, after a considerable struggle, succeeded in capturing it alive and carried it home. No damage was done, except that Mr. H. received a slight wound in the breast. It is said to be a very large eagle.

The mail stage between Hudson and Albany (N. Y.) just after it left Hudson on the 25th, overtook a sleek embedded in a snow bank, containing a woman, several children, and a quantity of furniture and bedding. The driver, a colored man, was found dead, having been frozen in his seat. The woman and children had been preserved from a similar fate by wrapping themselves up in the bedding.

If a man were to set out by calling every thing by its right name, he would be knocked down before he got to the corner of the street.

ANATOMICAL MUSEUM.—A person looking at some skeletons in an anatomical museum the other day, asked a young doctor present where he got them. He replied, "We raised them."

ATL.—An analysis of air taken from jars which had been buried six centuries in the ruins of Pompeii, was found to be, atom for atom, identical with the air we breathe.

COMMUNICATIONS.

TO THE EDITORS.

DECEMBER 27, 1850.

Messrs. EDITORS: I see in your paper of December 20 a communication dated at Brattleboro' (Vt.) and signed "A. C." professing to give some account of the passage of the unfortunate act of the Vermont Legislature relative to fugitive slaves. The communication contains the following sentence: "On Wednesday morning in the Senate Mr. Carrier, from Windsor county, a Free-soil Whig, introduced a string of patriotic resolutions, together with this law, which was passed immediately and sent down to the House. . . . So the bill passed and the House adjourned."

This passage does not contain a statement, however unimportant, that is not entirely erroneous. The bill was not presented on Wednesday, but late on Tuesday. It did not originate in the Senate, but in the House. It was not introduced by an individual, but was reported from a committee. Mr. CARRIER is not a "Free-soil Whig," in any worse sense than that in which Mr. WEBSTER or Mr. CHASE is a "Free-soil Whig," but is thoroughly national, conservative, and patriotic in all his views. And he had no connexion with the bill in question, other than to feel in common with other leading members of the body to which he belonged, the deepest regret for its inconsiderate passage.

If "A. C." had not been so indiscreet as to mention names in connexion with a subject of which he is so entirely ignorant, I should not have troubled you with this correction. The fact which he writes to set forth is most true, to wit, that the bill was submitted in the confusion of the last night of the session, and was passed, absolutely without consideration, on the part of any body. I should add that Mr. CARRIER did present the resolutions, which were passed by that Legislature, and the conciliatory and patriotic tone of which has been so generally applauded.

NOTE TO THE EDITORS.

The name and residence of the writer of the above, which accompany the transmission of it to us, guaranty to us its authenticity.

EXPLOSION OF STEAM BOILERS.

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

The frequent explosions of steam boilers, and consequent destruction of the lives and property of our fellow-citizens, have reached an extent so frightful that it is the duty of our public authorities to interpose some law to stop the evil at once. We can scarcely upon a newspaper without having our feelings agonized by accounts of scalded and mangled men, women, and children, who could have no knowledge, or control over, the danger to which they were exposed. Men of science have failed to discover the original cause of these explosions. The investigations have only proved that they are not imputable to the age of the boilers, nor to deficiency of water in them; nor to any particular form of them; nor, in most cases, to neglect of the attendants. Common sense, then, seems to dictate that the defect must be in the material of which the boilers are composed, and the use of cheap and inferior iron should be prevented by law. It is a well known fact that the better quality of American iron is remarkably for its strength and tenacity, and therefore it is peculiarly adapted for boilers. The difference in strength is not readily apparent after the iron is manufactured into boiler plates. Then the only test is experience, which has proved so fatal to thousands of our citizens, and will be to many thousands more, unless some stringent law be interposed for their defence. The existing laws for the inspection of boilers on board of steamboats have no utility. The law should provide a competent inspection of the iron used to make plates and boilers to show that they were made of good number two American iron. Every plate should be stamped, and penalties be inflicted for counterfeiting the stamps or otherwise evading the law. In making iron of good quality, a due proportion of good ore, coal, and limestone is necessary. By adding ore alone, without any increase of coal or lime, more iron will be produced at less cost; for, excepting the ore, the materials and the price of labor are the same, but the iron will be inferior. A furnace that can produce seventy-five tons per week of the best iron, with the addition of ore make ninety tons of second quality; and with more ore it will make one hundred and ten tons of third quality, and with still more ore one hundred and twenty-five tons of fourth quality; and so the ore may be increased until the iron becomes almost as brittle as glass, while the cost of it will be greatly diminished.

In the last few years there has been so much competition among makers of iron at home and abroad, that they use any and every means to reduce the cost, and our fellow-citizens are the sufferers by the bad quality of the iron. The difference in price between good and bad iron in a boiler of common size would not amount to more than twenty dollars, and for this insignificant sum the lives and property of our citizens are sacrificed.

The number two American iron is the strongest known, and some of it is so tough that it can hardly be fractured. The numbers do not with accuracy indicate the qualities. Iron that would be classed as number two at one furnace might scarcely be ranked as number three at another; but generally number two indicates a good grey crystallized iron, and it is the strongest. Number one is a shade darker, with larger crystals, and is not so strong; but it is preferred in foundries for fine moulding, because it becomes very liquid when melted. The Scotch number one iron is the best of the imported, but it is weak and tender. It is used to mix with very inferior and cheap American iron, and the two together make good looking iron, but not strong.

Much of the wrought iron imported from England is very bad. It is said to be made from hard scraps found among old cinder piles, that were never thought of when iron commanded a fair price, and it is made for exportation only. It is readily detected by any person acquainted with iron, for it breaks easily and cannot be welded, and the fracture exhibits numerous little cells in the interior like cast iron; whereas good wrought iron is always in fibres like threads compacted. Many disasters occur from the use of this bad iron. The writer had a narrow escape from the tongue bolt of his carriage breaking when going down a hill, and it was found that all the iron work of the carriage was made of this iron, which cost but two and a-half cents per pound at retail. Such iron should not be admitted into this country at any price.

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 28, 1850.

The following is extracted from an old-fashioned looking letter, written on a foolscap sheet, which comes from staid and respectable old Connecticut. The writer is a quiet country resident, in no way connected with politics, except as a peaceable and uniform voter of the Whig ticket, as his fathers have been before him; and his views, thus unostentatiously set down in the confidence of private correspondence, may not unfairly be supposed to approximate to those of his neighbors around him, and it is not improbable to those of a majority of the quiet citizens of that conservative and highly intelligent State. I have taken the pains to copy them, thinking it possible, under the circumstances, that they might prove not less interesting to yourselves and your vast and varied community of readers, than labor and argumentative communications. He says: . . .

"If an earthquake should occur here in Green's farms, it would hardly draw off the attention of any one from South Carolina, though there is a dreadful proximity of the sublime to the ridiculous; for I believe there are many unfringed heroes down there thirsting for gunpowder glory."

"I like the decided tone of the President's message. It was just what the country needed. I do not like the fugitive slave bill, but it is the law of the land. I doubt whether the South recovers any more slaves by this law than by former enactments. . . . But the law will benefit the North in this way: These fugitives will not dare to stop in the free States, and we shall thus be rid of a class of inhabitants by no means desirable. Every law Congress may pass upon the subject will benefit the North more than the South."

"But the North has agitated the subject too much. The South will in time see their peculiar institution in its true light, and will themselves apply the remedy. I am willing to leave the matter with them. . . . If the Abolitionists would let the law of kindness dwell upon their tongues, they would do more towards the abolition of slavery than they effect by all their lawless expedients, pamphlets, and petitions put together. Our last Bridgeport paper contains a call for a Union meeting, signed by three columns of names. We are all Union men here."

TO THE EDITORS.

GENTLEMEN: I am sorry to observe in the *Intelligencer* of this morning that you question the propriety of holding the proposed National Union Convention. If we fold our arms and suffer the enemies of the Union to agitate without restraint, I fear they will gather strength, and may ultimately succeed in overthrowing the Confederacy. In my humble judgment, the only successful mode of contending with them is to use our own weapon, "agitation." The Indians, it is well known, subdue the fire of the prairies by fire, and we can only hope to extinguish the flame of civil discord, which fanatics are striving to spread throughout the country, by kindling up a warmer blaze of patriotic devotion to the Union. I wish to see union meetings in every town and hamlet, county and State union conventions, and a grand National Convention of the friends of the Union. We cannot too often and in too imposing a manner impress upon the minds of all the blessings and vital importance of the Union. It should be inculcated as a sentiment to be cherished in every American breast, only second to his love and his duty to his God. What Congress has done is deserving of all praise, but to render their action effectual it must be sustained by the approving voice of the people in their individual capacity, as members of communities, through the press, from the pulpit, in public assemblages, and in every manner calculated to reach the mind of the nation, so that all may understand that our fellow-citizens as a mass are a law and order loving people, immovably devoted to the Union, resolved to uphold the patriots of the country, and to frown down factionists, disunionists, and traitors.

Why the proposed Convention should not be as free in appearance from "extraneous influence and party purpose" as the meetings and conventions for the same purpose in the States have been, I am unable to perceive, and as to sufficient accommodation for any number that might be drawn together on such an occasion, I think no fears need be entertained. If the large number of extensive hotels and boarding houses should not be able to accommodate all, the doors of the private residences of the hospitable citizens of Washington would be thrown wide open for the welcome and entertainment of strangers who had visited the metropolis for such a holy and patriotic purpose.

I do not regard your remarks as committing you against the policy of holding a National Union Convention. They seem to me merely intended to cause reflection upon the subject, so that the people, whatever may be their determination, whether in favor or against holding the Convention, may act prudently and understandingly in the premises. I wish you, gentlemen, to reflect further upon this matter, and I am not without hopes that you will not only approve of it, but that you will extend to the promotion of the object your powerful aid.

DECEMBER, 30 1850.

A FRIEND.

[Without being convinced by the above, its insertion is due to the freedom of discussion. *Per contra*, we offer the following from the Baltimore Patriot:]

When the suggestion for this meeting was first proposed we gave it our cordial assent. There was something in the associations of the place, the Capital of the Union, and the recollections which the day, the Birth-day of WASHINGTON, would bring up, which could not fail to awaken and strengthen the feeling of attachment to the Union. But, since the suggestion was first made, the signs have all been propitious; the indications of want of affection for the Union have died away before the evidence of attachment to it which has been manifested all over the land; so that now there is not the same reason for holding the meeting as there seemed to be when it was first proposed. Let it therefore be forborne.

The day may come when such an assemblage may be necessary. We will not believe that it will, but it may. There is no such occasion now. The spirit of fanaticism and disunion has been so rebuked by the sober sense of the people every where, that a formidable array like that proposed would only give it importance. It has ceased to be of any respect. Let it remain so.—*Balt. Patriot.*

TO THE EDITORS.

NEW LEBRON, (OHIO), DECEMBER 23, 1850.

Messrs. GALE & SEATON: A letter dated at this place, and published in the *Intelligencer* of the 7th instant, under the title of "The Slave Question in Ohio," has created some air in certain abolition quarters; and the writer, on account of withholding his name, has been charged with "dodging responsibility." Now, Sir, I can most truthfully assure your readers that the author of that letter had no care to avoid responsibility, nor any fear that his opinions and estimates would not prove substantially true. His name was withheld for reasons in the knowledge of which the public had no interest.

But the propriety of longer withholding may be doubted. A charge of unwillingness to take responsibility has been made, and if the writer longer conceal his name it may argue doubt in his own mind and create them in the minds of others, whether reliance can be placed upon his estimates. He has, however, no doubts whatever that they are reliable in the main. On his behalf I may be permitted to say further, that he has long been in the habit of estimating the strength of parties and the result of elections in advance, especially of Ohio; and that the opinions put forth were made up after the most mature reflection and from the most reliable information derived from every portion of the State. And, having received much additional satisfactory information subsequently to the date of that letter, from Columbus and Cincinnati, the present centres of reliable authority for the State, the court in bank, and the State Legislature being in session in the former place, and the Convention for amending the State Constitution in the latter, he could not, if now writing for the first time upon the same subjects, desire to change or amend a single opinion expressed.

A call has been made by Mr. WILLIAM DABY for the name of the author of a dissertation upon "The Source of the Nile," &c., published in the *Intelligencer* of the 29th of November over the signature R.

A communication over the same signature, upon "African Trade and Productions," was published in the *Intelligencer* of the 12th instant. In the latter there are two or three clerical errors or omissions, only chargeable to the copyist of the original manuscript; but these are rather immaterial, their correction is dispensed with, at least till some objection be taken to them.

For the reasons set forth, and lest a call be made for the name of the writer of the article last mentioned, I acknowledge myself the author of the several communications referred to.

Respectfully,

WM. E. RUSSELL.

AGRICULTURAL GEOLOGY.—No. XVII.

BY JORIAN HOLBROOK.

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

Crystals of quartz are gems. So are numerous other varieties of this most abundant mineral upon our globe. The varieties of agate are very numerous, and some of them among the most beautiful of the gems. They are also very abundant in many places. Crystals of quartz, agates, jaspers, cornelians, amethysts, and other precious stones confined to the quartz family, are so abundant in different parts of the world as to make it easy for any one of the six millions of Americans so disposed to procure a cabinet of gems, alike beautiful and useful.

Among lime formations are more than two hundred varieties of crystals. Some of them are not unfrequently combined with quartz crystals. This combination gives increased interest to each. Hence it is easy to procure from calcareous crystal varieties so numerous, rich, and beautiful, as to form a cabinet of lime formations, to be placed by the side of the silicious specimens, each increasing the value of the other.

The varieties of granite are so numerous and so different as to furnish specimens of that class of building materials for a cabinet so arranged and labelled as to provide most useful lessons of instruction, and, at the same time, to be admired for their beauty. The marbles, also belonging to the calcareous formations, present several hundred varieties. These are frequently so arranged and combined in the collection of building materials with great ease as to be arranged and labelled as to form an "architectural cabinet," combining most happily the beautiful and useful. Not less beautiful and useful may be an "agricultural cabinet," composed of minerals most useful to farmers. Such a cabinet may be prepared by every farmer boy in the land within a twelvemonth, if requested or even permitted by his parents.